THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) It is a fact that the office of Jt. DGFT, CLA, New Delhi made payment to the tune of Rs. 2.04 crores towards deemed export benefits to 12 firms on the basis of claims submitted by these firms. The names of the firms are as follows:—

1. M/s. Micropro India Ltd., New Delhi
2. M/s. Advance Steel Tubes Ltd., Sahibabad
3. M/s. Maharashtra Seamless Ltd., New Delhi
4. M/s. SAE India Ltd., New Delhi
5. M/s. Indian Aluminium Cables Ltd., New Delhi
6. M/s. Samtel Colour Ltd., New Delhi
7. M/s. Inalsa Ltd., New Delhi
8. M/s. Indure Ltd., New Delhi
9. M/s. Wiegand India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
10. M/s. Global Engineering, New Delhi
11. M/s. Siemens Ltd., New Delhi
12. M/s. BHEL, New Delhi

During local audit, the audit team has indicated that the above claims were time-barred. However, the above finding has been contested by the office of Jt. DGFT, CLA and necessary replies have been given case-wise to the Audit Department. In the case of M/s. Wiegand India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, the audit objection has been accepted and efforts are on to recover the amount from the firm i.e. Rs. 8,08,835/-

(d) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

Amendment in Patent Law

†553. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to make amendment in the Patent Law;

(b) whether the Convener of National Working Group of Patent Law has given any suggestion to Government in regard to the amendments to be made in the Patent Law; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Government is required to amend the Patents Act, 1970 in accordance with its international obligations under the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

(b) and (c) Suggestions have been received from the National Working Group on Patent Laws concerning amendments to the patent law. The suggestions include aspects such as exclusions from patentability, compulsory licence, term of patent protection, reversal of burden of proof, etc.

Import of defective Tin Plates

554. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that unscrupulous importers are bringing in defective tim plates in the guise of tin free steel;

(b) if so, the total quantum of tin free steel plates imported during the past one year;

(c) whether the import of defective tin plates are being used for packaging of baby foods and other edibles;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to check such imports;

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) There is no entry in the ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items by the name of 'Tin Free Stee'. Products of iron or non-alloy steel, not coated with tin can be imported under ITC code No. 72105000 and 72125000. Since these entries are for products not coated with tin, defective tin plates cannot be imported under these code numbers. Inquiries with some major Customs Houses have indicated that no seizure in respect of import of defective tin plates in the guise of tin free steel have taken place.